

**Within Our Reach:
A Community Partnership to End Homelessness**

**Working Group Notes
for September 28, 2005 Meeting**

Opening remarks were made by Kevin Cwayna, Co-Chair of the working group.

- Pace of project – Timeline available online. Aware the process seems to be moving slowly, however, focus groups are collecting information for the subcommittees. Once subcommittees meet, the pace of the process will pick up.
- Conflict of Interest – Committee members have expressed their fear of a personal conflict of interest. Most members on committee are present because of their affiliation with organizations that are concerned with homelessness. We are making recommendations, not final decisions, but if any individual is uncomfortable they are free to abstain from any voting process. We would appreciate continued input in the subcommittees and Working group forum.
- Level of trust required – In order for this process to succeed a level of trust must exist. We must all agree to work for the common good.

Self Introductions by attendees followed.

Power Point presentation entitled "The Face of Homelessness" was presented by Susan Price. Power Point is available on-line at http://www.longbeach.gov/health/organization/hss/homeless_services/10_year_plan_to_end_homeless.asp

Panel Discussion led by Susan Price City of Long Beach Homeless Services Coordinator. Panel was comprised of formerly homeless and currently homeless individuals.

Robert H. – Homeless single father

Maria – Single mother was homeless for 18 months

Robert W. – Single was homeless 5 years now lives in Safe Haven

Paul – Single and currently homeless (4 years)

Panel discusses personal reasons for becoming homeless and services that were useful while homeless

Joe Colletti from IURD presented the information that has been gathered from the Community meetings in Districts 3, 1, and 9. The following suggestions were presented

- Ensure a regional approach
- Increase permanent supportive housing
- Create Housing Trust Fund
- Provide affordable child care services
- Expand Mental Health Services

- Expand substance abuse services
- Establish Rent Control
- Increase Homeless Prevention Resources
- Provide tax credit to landlords that rent to the homeless
- Make available free health care services
- Encourage families to reunite with members that are homeless
- Improve community education on Homelessness
- Create city sponsored roommate service
- Set aside funds to help apartment owners that have substandard disabled access become compliant
- Create eviction prevention program
- Provide housing and supportive services for emancipated foster youth
- Establish weekend drop-in centers
- Establish an adopt a homeless program
- Create a security deposit trust fund
- Improve access to public assistance

The remaining six council districts will have community meetings in October and November.

Joe Colletti then led an open discussion of the panel participant's comments. The working group comments included

- Explore issues of recycling, homeless court system, and community service issues
- Explore the lack of services directed toward single men, as well as a general lack of homeless services
- Explore PATH as a possible example

Corinne Schneider, Department of Health and Human Services went over the next steps and gave an up date of the subcommittees

- Provided list of Chairs and Co-chairs
- Calendar of subcommittee meeting dates and times will be developed at the end of October or early November
- Subcommittee info. will be posted online

Question session followed, this was led by Kevin Cwayna

- Where would children coming from foster care obtain GED? - MSC collaboration has members that specialize in homeless youth services. A GED component is available however; the homeless youth population is the hardest to serve.
- Could interns come from the Life Skills course at the MSC? HHS will work with the MSC Coordinator to see if this is possible.
- When will group have a chance to see 10-year plans from other communities? Subcommittee has been set up specifically for this purpose. Information is available at www.neah.org
- Do other 10-year plans focus on groups of homeless other than the chronic homeless? Yes, there are a few 10-year plans that focus on other homeless populations however most focus on the chronic homeless.

- Will any group look at the criminalization of the homeless? Yes, each subgroup will examine specific topics of the homeless including criminalization of the homeless.
- Will money be available to support plan as presented? Part of the plan is to provide monetary sources to fund suggestions as well as looking at available federal monies to support the 10-year strategy.

Closing Remarks by Kevin Cwayna.

Meeting Adjourned